



**\*Motion:** Melody motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Joseph seconded the motion – APPROVED.

**Recording Secretary – Keith Mazanec:**

Keith stated that the final copy of the September 28, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes had been sent out to all Board Members for review, and that if there were no changes or questions, propose that a motion be made to approve them.

**\*Motion:** Suzanne motioned to approve the September, 2021 Meeting Minutes; Herb seconded the motion – APPROVED.

**Corresponding Secretary – Miriam Taub:**

The October Potting Shed and mid-month update have both been sent out.

**Old Business:**

**Travel Time Policy**

The amended Travel Time Policy was reviewed, followed by further discussion.

**\*Motion:** - Suzanne motioned to approve the amended Travel Time Policy without further changes. Joseph seconded the motion. APPROVED.

**Recognition Pin Policy and Procedures**

**\*Motion:** - Arnie motioned to approve the revised Recognition Pin Policy and Procedures. Joseph seconded the motion. APPROVED.

**Website Update Requests**

Miriam commented that the eleven digit number screen for the meeting ID didn’t show up on Liz Gil’s iphone. There was discussion, and Theresa Schneider mentioned that if you tap the space key, the number screen will come up.

Miriam to ask Gayle about the “sign out” tab on the website. The website is being updated as needed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Community Outreach Liaison – Arnie Friedman**

Arnie reported that the Speakers Bureau is doing a limited amount of Zoom lectures at present. There have been requests to do hybrid lectures in the spring. We will re-evaluate shortly the possibility of doing in-person lectures

**Hospitality – Sandi Liberti**

No report as Sandi was absent. Melody to reach out to her.

### **Membership – Theresa Schneider**

Paid members remain at 138.

Joseph brought up that members were upset when we hold back their dues checks rather than depositing them as soon as we receive them. He suggested we look into depositing checks via: photos. Theresa recalled that we had discussed at an earlier meeting, that an option such as PayPal was cost prohibitive (see March 23 minutes). Theresa will look into streamlining the dues paying process for members and requested this be added as a “New Business” item for discussion at the November meeting. In the meantime, she will research options for us to consider. Joseph asked if Miriam could reach out to Gayle for a price quote to add a credit card merchant to the website. There was further discussion about dues paying options, including Venmo; however that site is not secure.

### **MG Class Liaison – N/A**

### **Newsletter – Miriam Taub**

Continue to send out the monthly and mid-month editions of the Potting Shed.

There were no questions for Bruce Crawford.

- Garden Club Liaison – Janet Schulz  
Clubs are still holding private meetings. Hasbrouck Heights is hosting its first public meeting.

### **Programs – Donna Faustini**

Upcoming programs are as follows:

Tonight – Lesley Parness “Beyond the Potted Palm”

November – “Plant Geeks are us” presented by Adam Wheeler

January – Fungi and Mushrooms

February – Don Torino

### **Rutgers Cooperative Extension Liaison – Karen Riede**

Karen Riede submitted the following written report:

RCE Report to MG Association Board Meeting 10/19/21

Joel Flagler

1. The NJ Ornamental Horticulture Conference will take place on Jan 10, 11, and 12 in 2022. The time for each day is 10:00 am-12:00 noon. As always this is a great opportunity to get an entertaining and educational update on Landscape Ornamentals and their pests. Rich Buckley will be the keynote on Landscape Day--which is Jan. 12, starting at 10:00 am. At 11:00 am there will be an update from NJDEP. The other two days have Turf theme (Jan 10) and Tree theme (Jan 11). The complete program will be finalized soon. Be ready to join us for whatever days you are interested in; but you should definitely be with us on Jan 12; I will be the Chair that day.

**RCE Report – cont...**

2. The next Master Gardener training cycle will start in late January and run through June 2022. The online delivery will be shared by several counties. Bergen will have its own discussion sessions; for our students to ask questions about any of the training modules. Joel and Karen will participate in the training and the discussion sessions. We already have a full class and everyone is looking forward to an early spring.
3. Garretson Forge and Farm in Fair Lawn (circa 1710) is getting a face-lift on its greenhouse and tack room. The structure is part of an historic restoration involving several county properties. The MG team at Garretson, headed up by Lida Gellman and April Barth has done a fantastic job of keeping the gardens productive and healthy and beautiful. The greenhouse restoration will commence in spring 2022; it has gone out to bid right now. The County appreciates the contributions of the MG community in this particular site, more than others. Without the MG team there would be nothing much in the way of agriculture. Garretson Forge and Farm was preserved through the action of a small but passionate group of local residents--headed up by my personal friend, Lois Horowitz. It is clear that even a few voices can make a difference! Thank you MG's of Garretson!!

Karen stated that she will get an update from Joel on any updated Rutgers Covid restrictions. A decision is forth coming regarding the Master Gardener requirements for 2022. As of now, there are only five people who have completed the hour's requirement. Those completing the program would receive their certificate, pin and discount card to be used at nurseries. There was discussion about the graphics for the cards. Theresa will reach out to Karen to work on a design for the new cards.

**Volunteer Records - Autumn O'Shea**

**MG of BC committee notes from Volunteer Records Chair for October 19, 2021: submitted by Autumn J O'Shea**

Volunteer hours through Monday 10/18/2021 entered in Better Impact System: 1448.45 with 32 MG's participating in entering hours.

Autumn has purchased a home in Florida, and will be relocating there by April, 2022. Melody thanked Autumn for working as the Volunteer Records Chair, and helping to set up Better Impact.

Melody requested that Theresa forward her a membership list so we can begin a search for Autumn's successor.

**Website – Joseph Cooper**

Joseph received a notice from our website host StartLogic, stating that they will be charging his credit card \$146.99 on November 15, for the annual service. Upon receipt, the charge will be forwarded for reimbursement.

**New Business:**

Voting on Zoom – With the election of officers this evening, there was the question as to how the membership would vote using Zoom. Keith informed the Board that earlier today, Karen Pennell, Arnie and he met via: Zoom to discuss this and we propose that votes would be tabulated utilizing the “chat” icon. When introduced, Keith would present the slate of officers, and state that since the election is being held virtually, that members should vote using the chat icon, and instruct them to only vote if they were opposed or abstaining from voting. The results would be determined by taking the total number of eligible participants, and subtracting those who opposed and/or abstained. After discussion about the pros and cons and weighing other options, consensus was reached to use this method, and announce the result at the conclusion of the meeting.

Rutgers, Bergen County guidelines for in-person activities - There are no specific guidelines for in-person activities at this time.

**RMGANJ Report – Herb Arbeiter**

Herb reported that some counties are holding classes on-line, and others have resumed live instruction.

By January, Rutgers is getting a statewide curriculum together for Master Gardeners in order to establish consistency between counties.

Members should continue to log their volunteer hours.

The association is looking for two new officers.

Karen Riede stated that Bergen, Passaic and Union Counties all participated in getting the education standardization completed.

Melody asked Karen Riede where the instructions on using Better Impact are. Autumn responded they were sent out on August 18.

There was discussion about posting videos to our website

With regard to postings, Miriam stated that there is no place to post videos on the website. We post the Potting Shed, the mid-month update and news. Gayle could add a link to direct members to YouTube for example where videos could be posted.

**\*Motion to adjourn** made by Donna. Motion was seconded by Joseph. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Following the adjournment, there was some further discussion concerning One Bergen County Plaza; room availability, mask requirements, social distancing, hybrid learning, etc. Information will be shared as it becomes available.